

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media ignoring their obligation to protect democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

It is already enough of a tragedy that we have seen the media, all media, abrogate responsibility and turn national elections into who-is-ahead-by-a-nose horserace commentaries. Using a resource as precious as the RF spectrum for purely partisan aims erodes our already weak American democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Please take action to prevent Sinclair Broadcasting from using public spectrum to promote their management's ideology.

Thank you.